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For Immediate Release

Boston-Thurmond Community Network receives \$1.5M award to narrow racial disparities in infant and maternal mortality

Winston-Salem, N.C. – Boston-Thurmond Community Network is pleased to announce that it has received a grant to narrow racial disparities in infant and maternal mortality from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Partners include Population Health Improvement Partners, National Birth Coalition, Reset and Heal, LLC., and Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods.

The project will improve the lives of local residents by disrupting underlying causes of disparate birth outcomes, including structural racism, by helping shift power and resources to those with lived experiences of inequity over the next three years.

"We need to hear directly from women and people who birth babies, to better understand the multiple factors contributing to poor birth outcomes and learn potential solutions for improving these outcomes. By centering the voices and stories of women of color, this project will increase our knowledge and understanding of birth outcomes and ultimately strive toward better birth outcomes for our community," says Dr. Pamela Oliver, Executive Vice President of Novant Health, who also serves as the President of the Novant Health Physician Network, Chair of the Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition, and Vice Chair of Boston-Thurmond Community Network.

This project continues the work of Forsyth County Birth Stories, which began in 2022. During that time, Black and Brown residents in Boston-Thurmond and surrounding communities with the highest infant mortality rates gathered to share their birth stories in a safe space of healing and growth. They later reconvened and became change agents, driving improvement in themselves and the community, in partnership with family and friends, community organizations, and healthcare institutions.

Boston-Thurmond Community Network was founded in 2019 and has served 3,600 people in the Boston-Thurmond neighborhood by providing critical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic, high-speed internet through their digital equity initiative, free home repairs through their Safe Home Repair Program, and literacy coaching for children ages 0-5. Anna Reilly is Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

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The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust was established in 1947 and is now one of the largest private trusts in North Carolina. Our mission is to improve the health and quality of life of financially-disadvantaged residents in North Carolina. The Health Improvement in North Carolina program area supports community-wide health solutions across the state. The Local Impact in Forsyth County program area fosters equitable and sustainable solutions to improve the quality of life in Forsyth County. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. serves as sole Trustee.

The mission of the Boston-Thurmond Community Network is to facilitate and support the vision of Boston-Thurmond residents for a strong and economically viable neighborhood that is fully integrated into the broader Winston-Salem community. The Network helps implement an intertwined approach to community revitalization, consistent with the Purpose Built Communities model, that focuses over the long term on quality housing that is affordable and accessible to families at all income levels; a cradle-to-career educational pipeline of excellence; and community health and wellness that honors the rich history and strength of Boston-Thurmond.

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